wherein tetanus toxoid and diphtheria toxoid are adsorbed onto the aluminum salt before being mixed with the other components and the conjugate is prepared in a phosphate buffer solution before being mixed with the other components.

25. (Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising adding hepatitis B surface antigen adsorbed onto an aluminum salt before being mixed with the other components.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein mixing is conducted in the following order:

a) adsorbing tetanus toxoid and diphtheria onto aluminum hydroxide,

b) adsorbing pertussis toxoid and filamentous hemagglutinin in purified form onto an aluminum salt,

c) mixing the components obtained in a) with those obtained in b),

d) adding inactivated polio virus,

e) adding a phosphate buffer solution of a conjugate of a carrier molecule selected from tetanus toxoid and diphtheria toxoid and a capsular polysaccharide of *Haemophilus influenzae* type B.

27. (Amended) A method according to claim 25 wherein mixing is conducted in the following order:

a) adsorbing tetanus toxoid and diphtheria onto aluminum hydroxide,

b) adsorbing pertussis toxoid and filamentous hemagglutinin in purified form onto an aluminum salt,

c) mixing the components obtained in a) with those obtained in b),

d) adding inactivated poliovirus after c),

e) adding hepatitis B surface antigen previously adsorbed onto an aluminum salt after d),

f) adding a phosphate buffer solution of a conjugate of a carrier molecule selected from tetanus toxoid and diphtheria toxoid and a capsular polysaccharide of *Haemophilus influenzae* type B after e).

34. (Amended) A multi-component vaccine obtained by the method of claim 27, wherein the composition of said vaccine comprises per 0.5 ml dose:

g) 25 µg pertussis toxoid;

h) 25 µg filamentous hemagglutinin;

i) 30 LF diphtheria toxoid;

j) 10 Lf tetanus toxoid;

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k) 40 D antigen units poliovirus type 1;

l) 8 D antigen units poliovirus type 2;

m) 32 D antigen units poliovirus type 3;

n) 10 µg Haemophilus influenzae type B polysaccharide covalently bound to 20 µg tetanus toxoid; and

o) 5 µg hepatitis B surface antigen.

36. (Amended) A method for conferring protection in a host against disease caused by *Bordetella pertussis*, *Clostridium tetanii*, *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Poliovirus* and/or *Hepatitis B virus* using a multi-component vaccine obtained by the method of claim 27.

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37. (Amended) A method of immunizing a human host against disease caused by infection by *Bordetella pertussis*, *Clostridium tetanii*, *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Poliovirus*, and/or *Hepatitis B virus*, which method comprises administering to the host a multi-component vaccine obtained by the method of claim 27.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to clarify the nature of the claimed subject matter. With these amendments, the claim objections are obviated. The amendments also obviate the § 112, first paragraph rejection.

The claims were rejected as obvious over Gold *et al.* and Petre *et al.* For the following reasons, the applicants respectfully traverse.